

# **Air Marshal Puran Singh Bajwa, PVSM (Retd.) (1925-2009) A Daughter's Tribute**

DR. BAJWA WAS BORN AT his Nana's home at Chak 94, Toba-Tek-Singh, Tehsil & District Lyallpur, (India) on October 20, 1925 to parents, Captain Kartar Singh and Narinder Kaur (née Cheema). Pursuing his lifelong mission to heal the sick to become a physician, Dr. Bajwa joined King Edward Medical College, Lahore in 1942. He married Harvant Kaur (née Dhindsa) at the youthful age of 20 in 1945. After Partition he moved to Amritsar for his final M.B.B.S. in 1948.

As with many members of his family, in the best Sikh tradition, Dr. Bajwa joined the Indian Army in September 1948 as a Lieutenant, rising eventually to the rank of Air Marshal in October 1984 as Director, Medical Services of the Indian Air Force - the highest rank available. During his final postings in Delhi, Dr. Bajwa was Honorary Physician to the President of India. He retired as Air Marshal in 1985.

Air Marshal Bajwa received the Param Vashist Seva Medal in January 1985, India's highest military decoration for distinguished peacetime service.

He has been a past President and Fellow of The Indian Society of Aerospace Medicine. He and his wife, Harvant Kaur, spent retirement time with their two daughters: Parminder Kaur and her husband Dr. Tejpal Singh Dhillon (of Raleigh, North Carolina) and Satinder Kaur and her husband Dr. Daljit Singh Caberwal, of Asheboro, North Carolina (USA).

Air Marshal Bajwa was reputed throughout his career for his dignity and his proud practice of the Sikh faith - a model and an inspiration to generations of military personnel who followed him. In his retirement, the advanced study and practice of Sikhism (and teaching it to his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren) was Dr. Bajwa's chief pursuit in life. A dedicated physician and much decorated officer and community leader, Dr. Bajwa - literally - touched tens of thousands of lives, making lasting impact on host of people.

Besides his daughters, sons-in-law and extended relations, Dr. Bajwa is survived by five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. Parminder Kaur and Dr. Tejpal Singh Dhillon's daughter, Harmeet resides in San Francisco, California; the Dhillons' son Mandeep, wife Parveen Kaur (and their son Tegh Zoraver Singh) and daughters Hazuri Kaur and Nivaaz Kaur) currently reside in Redwood City, California.

Air Marshal Bajwa will be sorely missed by his family and friends for his devotion, love and legacy.

- Mrs. P.K. Dhillon  
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